

Topics

March 25, 2020

Legislative

Federal and state
legislative updates

Program Management

Transportation
Improvement Program

Transit Planning

Passenger Transportation
Plan, Park & Ride, and
Public Transit Plan

Bicycle-Pedestrian

Iowa legislative updates

Performance Management

Transit Safety, Transit
Asset Management, Safety
(PM1), Pavements and
Bridges (PM2), Freight
Reliability (PM3)

Asset Management

Pavement Management

Travel Demand Modeling

Overview Video

Planning

Various

MPO/RPA Quarterly Updates

Introduction

Normally, I would start introductions by going around the room and those in attendance would say their name and the agency they worked for. Due to COVID-19, I am sorry that I did not have the chance to introduce myself to you all at the March MPO/RPA Quarterly Meeting.

As you are all aware, the March quarterly meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 and many of you are working through unfamiliar situations, whether at work or at home. Collectively, Iowa DOT staff did not want to interrupt your day in the middle of this abnormal and uncertain time. We want you all to be safe and the one way we can help you be safe is to let you go on about your business without another interruption.

Our answer to not having the quarterly meeting and still providing you with informational updates is to try and convey what would have been presented into written form. We hope that you find this of value and, more importantly, we hope to see you all June 24th at the next MPO/RPA Quarterly Meeting.

Legislative

Prior to the cancellation of the MPO/RPA Quarterly Meeting, Susan had put together a PowerPoint presentation regarding Federal Updates. That presentation is available to you as an attachment to the email that delivered this newsletter.

Within that presentation, you will find updates related to reauthorization (proposals, administration budget/proposal, outlook) and the status of grants (BUILD, INFRA, Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive, Low or No Emission Buses, Accelerated Innovation Deployment, Small Community Air Service, FRA's "CRISI", and Port Infrastructure Development).

The reauthorization outlook could very well be different at this point. Congress recently passed a stimulus bill with another one possibly to follow. Either of these **could** include some of the transportation provisions in the reauthorization proposals, along with additional elements.

If anyone should have questions, please contact Susan Wallace, susan.wallace@iowadot.us.

Bicycle-Pedestrian

The Iowa Legislatures first funnel was February 21, 2020. The second funnel was originally scheduled for March 20, 2020.

Amid COVID-19, the Iowa Legislature postponed its session until April 13, 2020. At this moment, we cannot provide an updated timetable, but below is a summary of the previously introduced bills and their latest status.

HF 2037 – An Act relating to lamps and clothing required for the operation of bicycles, providing penalties, and making penalties applicable. Subcommittee recommends amendment and passage: 2/11/2020.

HF 2040 – An Act relating to the overtaking and passing of bicycles by motor vehicles, and making penalties applicable. Introduced: 1/16/2020.

SF 2090 – An Act relating to lighted lamps on bicycles, making penalties applicable, and including effective date provisions. Introduced: 1/28/2020.

HF 2189 – An Act relating to additional penalties for certain violations against bicyclists causing serious injury or death committed by a person operating a motor vehicle. Subcommittee recommends passage: 2/18/2020.

Program Management

Iowa DOT staff has examined and analyzed the submitted TPMS comments with the Iowa County Engineers Service Bureau staff. While some items have already been addressed, it is anticipated that further changes will be made in the next few months.

Please note that TPMS training may need to be adjusted to a different format than in years past. It may be that staff conducts TPMS training on an individual agency basis over the internet but for now, staff will continue to proceed accordingly and adjust as necessary with the evolving conditions.

Staff is on schedule to provide Operation & Maintenance information in April 2020. Speaking of schedules, the TIP deadlines remain intact with the draft TIP due June 15, 2020 and final TIP due July 15, 2020.

As a final reminder, staff anticipates performing the first review of TAP balance accrual at the end of the FFY.

If anyone should have questions, please contact Matt Chambers, matthew.chambers@iowadot.us.

Transit Planning

Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP)

Agencies will need a minimum of two sets of TAG meeting minutes by July 31, 2020. The agencies that have a Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) due this year will already have those TAG meeting minutes included as part of their updated PTP.

Friday, May 1, 2020 is the due date for final PTPs. A few PTPs have been received and if PTPs are sent in earlier than May 1, staff will try to review them.

PTP Guidance has been updated with new PTP dates with the following agencies having PTPs due in 2021: RPA 10 (receives section 5310 funding), RPA 12, RPA 16, RPA 17, and MPOJC (receives section 5310 funding).

Park & Ride

Iowa DOT staff will be setting up Miovision cameras on park and ride lots at 10 locations in eastern/northeastern Iowa and anticipate collecting usage data between April 1 – 7, 2020. Miovision cameras will be set up at the following locations:

- Benton County – U.S. 63 and U.S. 18
- Bremer County – U.S. 63 and County Road C33
- Buchanan County – U.S. 20 and Iowa 187
- Chickasaw County – U.S. 63 and U.S. 18

SF 2205 – An Act relating to low-speed electric bicycles, providing penalties, making penalties applicable, and including applicability provisions. Subcommittee recommends passage: 2/20/2020.

HF 2409 – An Act relating to low-speed electric bicycles, providing penalties, making penalties applicable, and including applicability provisions. Subcommittee recommends passage: 3/2/2020.

- Dubuque County – U.S. 20 and 20th Avenue SE
- Iowa County – Iowa 21 and Iowa 212
- Iowa County – U.S. 6 and County Road V77
- Linn County – Kirkwood Boulevard SW and 66th Avenue SW
- Scott County – I-80 and U.S. 61
- Tama County – U.S. 30 and IA 21

Public Transit Long-Range Plan

Iowa DOT staff is currently working on content development for the Public Transit Long-Range Plan as well as meeting with stakeholders. Staff anticipates the public comment period to occur in May/June 2020 with a target completion date of June/July 2020.

If anyone should have questions, please contact Joe Drahos, joseph.drahos@iowadot.us.

Performance Management

Transit Safety

Large urban transit systems (5307 recipients) are required to approve their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) by July 20, 2020. Plans will include targets for seven performance measures established under the National Public Transportation Safety Plan. The seven performance measures are:

- Total number of reportable fatalities and rate per total vehicle revenue miles by mode
- Total number of reportable injuries and rate per total vehicle revenue miles by mode
- Total number of reportable events and rate per total vehicle revenue miles by mode
- Mean distance between major mechanical failures by mode

Two important dates for MPOs to remember are:

- By January 20, 2021, or no more than 180 days after receipt of the agency safety plan from public transportation providers, MPOs are required to set their initial transit safety targets.
- After July 20, 2021, amended or adopted MPO TIPs and LRTPs need to include transit safety performance measures and target information.

For further information and resources, please consider visiting the following:

- [FTA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans homepage](#)
- [FTA's MPO PTASP FAQs](#)

Planning

TPWP

Electronic copies of draft TPWPs are due Wednesday April 1, 2020. Please submit them to Zac Bitting, your district planner, Darla Hugaboom, and Eva Steinman.

Comments from the Iowa DOT, FHWA, and FTA are due back to agencies no later than Friday, May 1, 2020.

Final board-approved electronic TPWPs are due Monday, June 1, 2020 to the Iowa DOT, FHWA and FTA. Additionally, please submit two hardcopies to Zac Bitting.

DBE Semi-annual Reports

Friday, May 1, 2020 is the due date for the first half of FFY 2020 DBE standard semi-annual reporting. All MPOs and RPAs must respond and planning agencies that also house a transit agency must submit two separate reports, one to the Systems Planning Bureau for FTA/FHWA planning funds and one to the Public Transit Bureau for federal transit funds (transit personnel are receiving an email from Sree Mitra requesting their report).

The six agencies that house an MPO and RPA can provide one combined report for the MPO and RPA, so long as the federal planning funds for both entities are reported. If your

- [FTA's Safety Performance Targets Guide](#)

Transit Asset Management

[2020 group targets for Iowa small urban and rural providers](#) are now available on the Systems Planning Federal Performance Management and Asset Management [website](#).

Safety Performance Measures (PM1)

In the coming months, State performance targets will be drafted for 2017-2021 safety performance measures. MPO's will be provided an opportunity to comment. State safety performance targets are due August 31, 2020 and MPO safety performance targets are due February 27, 2021.

Pavements and Bridges Performance Measures (PM2)

System and Freight Reliability Performance Measures (PM3)

The State's mid-performance period progress report is due October 1, 2020. The report will include multiple discussions of progress toward achieving targets, comparison of performance vs. target, reasons for differences, and more.

The State will have the option to adjust 4-year targets as part of the report. If the State does adjust 4-year targets at midpoint, MPOs that supported the State's targets have 180 days to determine whether to support adjusted targets or commit to adopting new quantifiable targets for the MPO area.

DOT staff will be reviewing progress on these targets soon and will coordinate with MPOs if target adjustments are being considered.

If anyone should have questions, please contact Andrea White, andrea.white@iowadot.us.

Asset Management

As a reminder, changes have been made to the data collection funded by the Iowa DOT. The plan for data collection is that Iowa DOT will pay to collect:

- Interstate routes every year (same as previous data collection)
- All NHS routes (primary and local) and Iowa DOT routes every two years (same as previous data collection)
- All LPA routes every four years (change from previous data collection, which was every two years)

agency’s federal reimbursement requests were solely for direct salary expenses during the six-month reporting period, you do not need to fill out the form, but please respond by email to note that the only expenses were salary.

CY 2020 Planning Review Dates

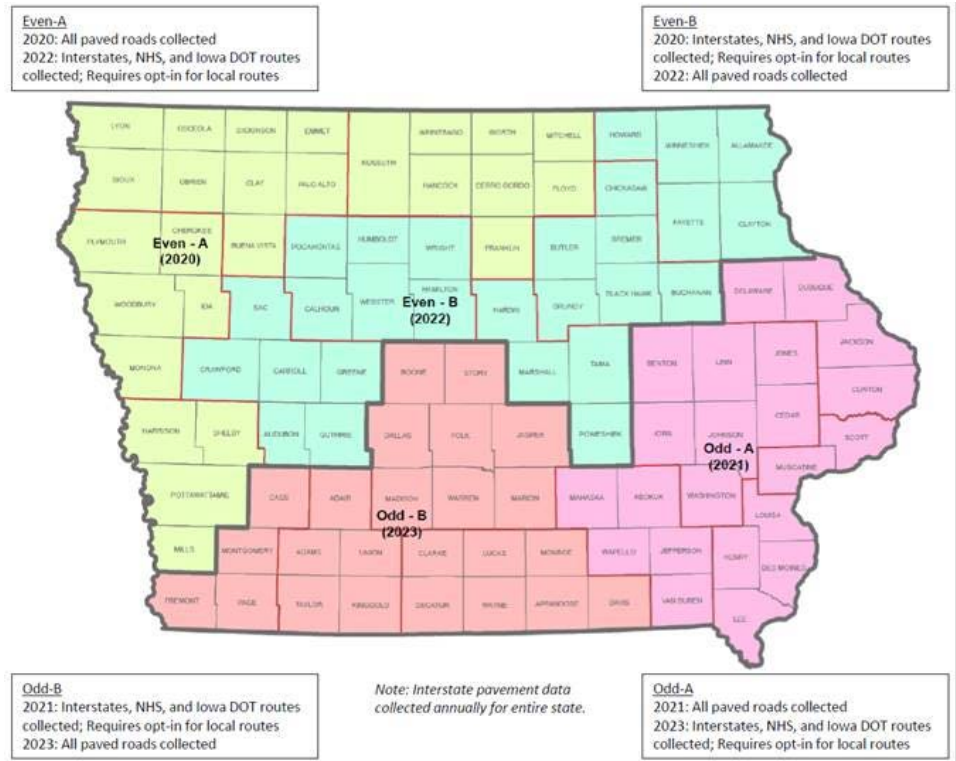
- Bi-State: April 16-17, 2020
- INRCOG: June 23, 2020
- AAMPO: TBD
- RPA 13: April 15, 2020
- RPA 14: July 23, 2020
- RPA 15: October 29, 2020

Peer Exchange

The DOT staff does not see the quarterly meeting as just an opportunity for standard DOT updates and presentations, but something that is for all of us to use to share our work. Over the years, the quarterly meetings have given RPA and MPO planning staffs an opportunity to present on topics, ideas, projects, and programs that were successful and important. In the past few years, agencies have presented on transit audits, express route projects, pavement condition data usage, public outreach, and more.

We would like to showcase much of the great work that

All agencies are encouraged to discuss their participation in the data collection program as part of the next TIP programming cycle. Agencies that should be reviewing this are those located in the “Odd-B” area of the map on the following page. Those agencies (Ames Area MPO, Des Moines Area MPO, RPA 11, RPA 13, RPA 14, and RPA 17) should have a discussion on whether there is interest in opting in for 2021 data collection at an MPO/RPA level. All other agencies could also start making decisions and programming the data collection in a future TIP year.



If anyone should have questions, please contact Zac Bitting, zachary.bitting@iowadot.us.

agencies and staff are undertaking because the quarterly meetings should also be about you all and your best practices. Do you have a topic, idea, project, or program that you would like to share with other agencies? If so, please let me know.

Equally important to showcasing your great work is making sure that the information DOT staff discusses is relevant and engaging. Are there any specific DOT activities that you want to hear about? Do you have topics or ideas that you would like the DOT to address at a quarterly meeting? If so, please let me know.

Based on the feedback received, we will start incorporating the topics you want to see covered and showcasing more regional examples into these meetings.

If anyone should have questions, please contact Zac Bitting, zachary.bitting@iowadot.us.

Travel Demand Modeling

The Iowa DOT, in conjunction with [HDR, Inc.](#), developed a video aimed at informing groups (such as Policy Boards) about the building blocks and uses of travel demand models. [The video](#) was structured to remind viewers of what a travel demand model can do and to address the common myth that a travel demand model is a black box.

Giving exposure to our working partners on the specifics of a travel demand is key to gaining buy-in for one of our most powerful tools in the field of planning. Further, the video is meant to convey a basic interpretation of a travel demand model, therefore it is not exhaustive or necessarily specific to any one model but is intended to begin the conversation of using our models to plan for the world and the conditions that we live in today. This video can be just the beginning of introducing exposure to the topic of travel demand modeling.

Staff would be happy to speak with anyone on specific needs to help further that exposure. If anyone should have questions, please contact Jeff Von Brown, jeff.vonbrown@iowadot.us.

Conclusion

Scott Marler, our new Iowa DOT Director, shared some interesting information related to COVID-19 strategies of social distancing, limiting interaction with others, and how our traffic data is beginning to show the results of these methods.

Recent traffic recorder data logged a decrease in passenger vehicle traffic of just over 47%. Meanwhile, the traffic data showed no decline in truck traffic, meaning that people are listening to the message to limit social interactions, while trucks continue to provide needed commodities to our stores.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has defined the transportation sector as “essential service” in emergency events. For many citizens, the services the Iowa DOT provide are a lifeline and essential to their daily lives. We have encouraged our construction partners to push forward, our transit and aviation partners to not give up, commercial drivers to stay on the road, and our Commissioners to meet virtually. The Iowa DOT remains open for business and ready to provide our essential services.